

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 806

By Finney L

A RESOLUTION to honor Charlie and Mary Gladys Sledge of
Rutherford County.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in paying tribute to those successful marriages that have stood the test of time to serve as exemplars for present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, Charles Applin Sledge and Mary Gladys Sledge are lifelong resident of Rutherford County, having spent their lives in the Christiana and Kittrell communities; and

WHEREAS, Charlie was born on November 17, 1921, barely three years removed from the armistice that effectively ended the World War I, and Mary was born on this great nation's sesquicentennial of July 4, 1926; and

WHEREAS, Charlie's parents, Robert Nathaniel Sledge and Sally Williams Sledge, were working as tenement farmers when the Great Depression began, and Charlie spent his teenage years helping to support his family following the death of his father, working as a farm laborer to earn money for his mother, two sisters, and brother while cutting short his education at the ninth grade; and

WHEREAS, the start of World War II brought Charlie into the U.S. Army one week before his twenty-first birthday at Camp Forrest in Tullahoma, where he trained to serve his country before embarking on military campaigns in the Southern Philippines and the Western Pacific as part of an artillery unit in the Wildcat Division; and

WHEREAS, Charlie received letters throughout his service from Mary Gladys Jernigan, whom he had met through a mutual friend; and

WHEREAS, Charlie and Mary began courting upon his return to the United States in 1946, when he began work as a freight handler and truck driver and a member of the Teamsters Union; and

WHEREAS, Mary's parents, T.J. Jernigan and Florence Downing Jernigan, worked as a farmer and merchant and homemaker, respectively, raising a family of six children in the Kittrell community of eastern Rutherford County; and

WHEREAS, Mary graduated from Kittrell High School in 1945, where she learned seamstress skills that she used in providing handmade clothing for her family and community members; and

WHEREAS, Charlie and Mary married November 25, 1948, in the home of Reverend Pullias in the Westview area of Murfreesboro; and

WHEREAS, following their marriage, Charlie and Mary Sledge welcomed the births of their three children: Charles Randall in 1950, Thomas Nathaniel 1954, and Rebecca Lynn in 1957. They raised their children in the Kittrell community in the same house they have lived in since 1957; and

WHEREAS, they are the proud grandparents of six grandchildren: Peter Colby Sledge, Timothy Micah Sledge, Carrie Amanda Sledge, Tessa Brooke Sledge, James David Roden, and Nicholas Andrew Roden, all of whom make their homes in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, they have been faithful members of area churches throughout the years serving the Lord with the humility and grace called upon them by their Savior Jesus Christ; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Charlie Applin and Mary Gladys Sledge on their sixty-three joyful years of marriage and their service and commitment to Rutherford County and the great State of Tennessee as we extend to them our wish that their lives may be filled with many more years of peace and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.